

Larvae of *Mompha ochraceella* Curtis can be obtained in late April and early May from the lower stems of *Epilobium hirsutum*, particularly those growing in sheltered ditches and stream-sides. Break stem off at ground level—a brown discolouration indicates presence of larva, which will eventually mine a lower leaf, and form a cocoon. The stems of *hirsutum* become unpleasant when stored, and cocoons should be salvaged if possible. However, do not discard decomposing stems, as moths will often emerge from them (SOKOLOFF).

Larvae of *Teleiodes sequax* Haw. can be collected mid-May onwards from spun shoots of rockrose (*Helianthemum*). On the North Downs, Kent, the larvae seem to prefer rockrose growing on ant-hills (SOKOLOFF).

In May go around the woods and look carefully at twigs, stems and branches for frass extrusions. Branches hanging in the shrub layer, fallen trees, wood lying on the ground are all worth looking at. Places where there have been wounds or damage in the past seem to attract Tineids and will pay inspection, especially if fungus has developed there. Prune or saw off the interesting sections and keep them in a large fish or water tank covered with fine muslin. In due course, apart from the Oecophorid *Dasycerus sulphurella* F. that nearly always turns up, you may breed some interesting Tineids including *Triaxomera fulvimitrella* Sodoffsky, *Nemapogon ruri-colella* Stainton, *N. cloacella* Haw., *N. arcella* F., etc. (BRADFORD).

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LITA VIRGELLA THUNBERG (LEP.: GELECHIIDAE) A SPECIES NEW TO IRELAND.—A specimen of *Lita virgella* Thunberg was collected on the 4th of June 1977 from the slopes of Kippure Mountain Co. Wicklow, Ireland. (Irish Grid Reference O.1419). The moth was swept from Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) on a moorland blanket bog at an altitude of approximately 500 metres.

The larvae feed on *Calluna* in April and May, the adult emerges in June (Ford 1949). The moth is common in Britain, being distributed from Hereford to Sutherland. Abroad it is found in North and Central Europe to East Siberia, and it also occurs in North America (Meyrick, 1928). Therefore one would assume it as common in Ireland, and overlooked by Beirne in his list of Microlepidoptera of Ireland (1941).

The specimen was kindly identified by Dr. J. P. O'Connor of the National Museum, Dublin. His identification was confirmed by Dr. K. Sattler of the British Museum (Natural History), London. The moth has been placed in National Collection of the National Museum, Dublin.—D. N. DOWLING, Capaghmore Estate, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin.